में "केन एरियर्स में डबल बाई में" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1990-91 के अंत में किसानों की बहुत बड़ी राशि चीनी मिलों की तरफ बकाया हो गई थी ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उपरोक्त अवधि के दौरान किसानों को कितनी राशि का भुगतान किया गया ;

(घ) किसानों को समय पर भुगतान न करने के क्या कारण थे ; और

(ङ) किसानों की शीघ्र भुगतान करने के लिये सरकार अब क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) (श्री नरसिंह गागोई) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) वर्ष 1990-91 के अंत तक अर्थात् 31 मार्च, 1991 तक 1 अक्तूबर, 1990 से प्रारंभ होने वाले चालू चीनी मौसम के लिए बकाया गन्ना कीमत 408.20 करोड़ रुपये थी, जो बाद में घटकर 358.65 करोड़ रुपये रह गई ।

(ग) फैक्ट्रियों से प्राप्त नवीनतम उपलब्ध रिपोर्टों के अनुसार देय गन्ना कीमत 3716.56 करोड़ रुपये थी जिसमें से चालू चीनी मौसम के दौरान फैक्ट्रियों द्वारा 3357.91 करोड़ रुपये का भुगतान किया गया ।

(घ) और (ङ) गन्ना कीमत का समय पर भुगतान सुनिश्चित करने की जिम्मेदारी मुख्यतः राज्य सरकारों की है, जिनके पास ऐसे भुगतान के लिए बाध्य करने के लिए आवश्यक अधिकार एवं क्षेत्रीय संगठन हैं । तथापि, केन्द्र सरकार स्थिति की मोनिटरिंग कर रही है तथा राज्य सरकारों से बकाया गन्ना कीमत के भुगतान के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठाने का अनुरोध किया गया है ।

Scarcity of Dhara groundnut oil

*112. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the actue shortage of Dhara groundnut refined oil in Delhi and also in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove the scarcity?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) There is no acute shortage of Dhara groundnut refined oil in the market.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) However production enhancement programmes are being implemented in groundnut. NDDB has also planned to enhance its edible oil processing and packaging capacity.

Completion of Sutlez Yamuna Link

*113. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Haryana have recently taken up the issue of expeditious completion of Sutlej-Yamuna Link (S.Y.L.) so as to ensure a balanced development of the region; and

(b) if so, at what stage the SYL construction work stands at present indicating the progress so far made, the expenditure so far incurred thereon, the steps proposed to be taken for expendious completion thereof, the central assistance sought for the purposes and the time schedule contemplated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 97 per cent of the earthwork, 95 per cent of the lining work

and 86 per cent of the structures were completed by July 1990 when the construction work came to a halt following the killing of the Chief Engineer and a Superintending Engineer of the Project. The latest approved cost of the Project at 1990 price level is Rs. 499.12 crores the Project is under construction by the Government of Punjab, but the funds are made available by Government of India. The expenditure till March 1991 was Rs. 456 crores. The Government of Punjab has been advised to engage appropriate agency/agencies to complete the balance work. The time schedule for completion will depend on the nature and the capacity of the new agency/agencies that will be engaged by Government of Punjab.

Bilateral co-operation with USSR

*114. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas of bilateral cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors with U.S.S.R.; and

(b) whether there are any new identified areas of mutual benefit in this direction, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Bilateral Cooperation with USSR in agriculture and allied sector

The Long Term Programme (LTP) of Cooperation upto the year 2000 A.D. between India and USSR in the field of agriculture envisages scientific, technical and economic cooperation in the areas of agricultural production and processing, seeds development, farm mechanisation, integrated post management, soil and land resources management, livestock development, animal health, meat production and horticulture.

In the third meeting of the Indo-Soviet Working Group set up under the LTP to review and monitor the progress of cooperation in the field of agriculture held in Moscow from May 24—31, 1990, renewed emphasis was laid on developing new forms of economic and technical cooperation in the field of agro-industry, expansion of cooperation for seeds development under India's New Seed Policy particularly for oilseeds, coarse grains, pulses and forage and for establishment of direct ties between agricultural research establishment of the two countries for undertaking joint research and for exchange of young scientists for furtherance of cooperation among scientists and research organisations of both the countries.

Deterioration of soil caused by waterlogging

*115. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' of 7th June, 1991, regarding World Bank study on deterioration of soil caused by waterlogging and salinity and if so, the details thereof and what is the percentage of cultivable land waterlogged and the loss in the production of food; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to rectify the damage?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Legislation on construction labour

*116. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Campaign Committee for Central Legislation on con-